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cont'

ranging from a few days to several years, and which in its solid state is a mechanically strong plastic or rubbery material, and - a bioactive component, which is a bioactive glass or a bioactive xerogel,

such that the plasticized thermoplastic component remains moldable for a certain period even after the temperature of the composite has been lowered to a temperature which is considerably lower than the setting temperature of said thermoplastic component.